

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are now present in this application. Claims 3, 6 and 7 are independent.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance. In addition, and as more fully explained below, the rejection made in the previous Office Action did not meet the limitations of the claims and the claims have been amended only to more clearly define the claimed subject matter.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 4, 2010, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Rooij in view of Urata. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 3 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a power transmission chain including a plurality of link plates individually including through-holes, having their side surfaces covered by a coating material capable of being readily abraded or separated by using the chain, and arranged as mutually overlapped in a thicknesswise direction thereof, a plurality of pins inserted through the through-holes for flexibly interconnecting the plurality of link plates. The coating material has a lubrication component.

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 3 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including van Rooij and Urata.

In the rejection, the Examiner relies upon van Rooij for disclosing the structure of the power transmission chain but recognizes that van Rooij does not disclose the use of a coating. The Examiner relies upon Urata for the disclosure of a coating having a lubrication component and alleges that it would be obvious to use the coating of Urata with the power transmission chain of van Rooij. The Examiner states that the coating of Urata will be abraded or separated (at least to some extent). However, there is no support in Urata for this assertion and, in fact, Urata states that the coating has excellent coating adhesiveness (see column 2, lines 56-61 and column 4, lines 1-4). The claims have been amended to further recite that the coating is capable of being "readily abraded or separated." This further highlights the differences between the coating of the invention and the prior art. The benefits of having a coating that is readily abraded and separable from the links is disclosed in paragraphs [0038] and [0039] of the specification.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended in a similar manner to present method claims of varying scope. Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 3, 6 and 7 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including van Rooij and Urata, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 4, 10 and 11, Applicants submit that these claims depend from independent claim 3, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore are allowable. In addition, these claims recite further limitations which are not disclosed

or made obvious by the applied prior art references. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

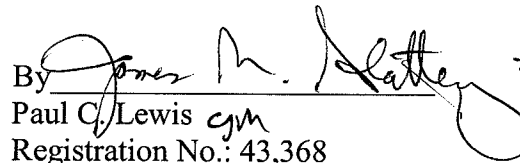
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chris McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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